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Promising New Choice For CLA

PRESIDENT CARTER appears to have chosen, the second time around, an ideal candidate to head the Central Intelligence Agency. Adm. Stansfield Turner's military credentials should allay some traditionalist apprehensions over potential changes in the intelligence establishment. At the same time, other facets of the new nominee's background suggest that he will bring to this crucial post the fresh approach it very much needs.

Though by no means unheard of, a career officer with an intellectual bent is certainly a rare species. What is even more notable about Admiral Turner is the diversity of his talents and interests. Graduated 25th in his class of 820 at the U.S. Naval Academy, he studied philosophy, politics, and economics as a Rhodes scholar at England's Oxford University, Still later, he completed anadvanced management course at the Harvard Business School. Meanwhile, his military service has included sea duty in the Korean and Vietnam wars and shore assignments at the Pentagon and as head of the Naval War College. He now is commander of NATO forces in southern Europe.

If, as expected, he is confirmed by

the Senate, Admiral Turner will have an opportunity to contribute something from all of his varied training and experience to the revitalization of the CIA. And even more important than his military expertise and his acquaintance with international affairs will be the independence of thought and administrative innovativeness for which he has a reputation.

After developing controversy led Theodore Sorensen to withdraw as the initial appointeee, the President has emphasized that he still intended to name
someone from outside the entrenched
intelligence community to take over
the CIA's direction. Then when the selection of Admiral Turner, an Annapolis
classmate of Mr. Carter, was announced,
White House press secretary Jody,
Powell said the major reason was the
President's feeling that "this is a person who has his complete trust."

Taken together, the two points indicate that the Chief Executive's new candidate by no means represents any compromise of principles which Mr. Carter believes are needed to restore the CIA to full effectiveness. He is on the right track, and his second choice promises to be first rate.